



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in
The Ocean's
Cultural Heritage
Portugal



UNIVERSIDADE
NOVA
DE LISBOA

[6]

OCEANICA

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Oceanica – Newsletter of the
UNESCO Chair “The Ocean’s
Cultural Heritage”, n. 6
(January, 2018)

Editorial Coordination

Joana Gaspar de Freitas (IELT)

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Graphic Design and Photo Editing

Carla Veloso (CHAM)
Ricardo Naito (IEM)

Cover Photo

Fishing Boats in a Storm.
Marco Ricci, 1715. The J. Paul Getty
Museum, Los Angeles

Email for sending information,
news and suggestions
oceanheritage.news@fch.unl.pt

UNESCO Chair Website
“The Ocean’s Cultural Heritage”
www.cham.fch.unl.pt/ext/catedra

THE LITTORAL AS A COMMON GOOD

Centuries of use and transformation have made almost indistinguishable the natural and the human factors that contributed to the littoral’s current setup.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the littoral is understood as a common good, a public space, whose future raises great questions. The coastal zone has been converted into a leisure area and the landscapes that characterize it have become determinant factors in the apprehension of the territory and the expectations that surround it. Centuries of use and transformation have made almost indistinguishable the natural and the human factors that contributed to the littoral’s current setup. The marks of the use of the coast are so deeply embedded in the landscapes, that have become part of them, as layers that overlap, composing a new modality of interpretation of this space. In the last years, the focus in the creation and development of eco-museums that preserve traditions like salt production and milling, the recovery of old sardine canneries and whale oil factories as museological centers and the rehabilitation of lighthouses and fortresses are examples of how the past intertwines with the present, offering new ways of experiencing the coastal zone. The future of many urban centers that depend on beach tourism may well pass not by building more hotels, apartment blocks and car parks, but through the valorization of their cultural heritage. Namely the preservation and defense of their histories and local traditions, the memories of their people and the reaffirmation of their maritime identity, established in a long cohabitation with the sea. This can also be a way of strengthening the links of citizens with their natural and symbolic space creating an effective tool to increase civic participation in decision-making processes in relation to the coast.

Joana Gaspar de Freitas

A RESEARCHER AND HER WORK

Clara Sarmento

PhD in Portuguese Culture, she is the director of the CEI – Center for Intercultural Studies at the Polytechnic of Porto (P. PORTO) and coordinator of a research center of IELT – Institute for Traditional Literature and Tradition (NOVA FCSH), in that institution. Clara's work is fascinating, because she is extremely dynamic, but her studies on the cultural practices of the maritime communities of the Aveiro lagoon must be highlighted. The moliceiros – the traditional boats that were once used to gather seaweed in the lagoon – are her passion. They were the theme of her PhD and the topic of the research work that she has developed since then, on maritime cultures, arts, heritage and touristic routes.



THE BEACHES OF PORTUGAL

Monte Gordo beach

The beaches from Algarve are not mentioned in the famous book about Portugal's seaside resorts, a guide for bathers, written by Ramalho Ortigão in 1876. The elegant beaches where the elites met were all located to the north of the Tagus River. In the south, apparently, there were no interesting summer destinations. But, things were not quite like that. In Algarve, Praia da Rocha Beach was used by the local elites and Monte Gordo was the favorite beach of the people living in the East part of the region, landlords from Alentejo and even the Spaniards from Aiamonte and Isla Cristina.

Monte Gordo was famous in the 18th century because of the fishing activities. The houses were then made of grasses collected in the dunes. The bathers arrived at the end of the 1800s when the road to Vila Real de Santo António was built and the first bathing structure was placed in the beach (1899). In the beginning, the bathers rented the fishers' houses and after they started building their own summer chalets. In 1934, there were 450 houses in the beach that had 1800 inhabitants and about 1500 new comers during vacation. In the following years the village grew, being equipped with a casino and a marginal avenue. Its touristic reception capacity increased after 1956, with the construction of a camping park and a major hotel called Vasco da Gama (1960). In 1976, it was built the Guadiana, a ten-story building that represented the progressive end of the beautiful small family houses of Monte Gordo replaced by the big apartment blocks that characterize the village. Monte Gordo lives now almost exclusively from tourism.



▲ Monte Gordo beach. Photo: Joana Gaspar de Freitas.

MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY

The case of Dori, S. Miguel, Azores

The Dori, located in S. Miguel Island, Azores, was classified, in 2012, as an Underwater Archeological Park. In 2009, a group of citizens entitled “Dori Friends” asked the Direção Regional de Cultura dos Açores to verify the history of the ship and if it was eligible as an archaeological park, under the same law that allowed the creation of the Underwater Archeological Park of Angra. They did it with the intention of protecting this diving spot. The evaluation process included the inventory and identification of the most relevant and significant elements of the shipwreck, such as boilers, motor or propeller. It also revealed that the Dori was initially Edwin L. Drake, the first name of the ship, belonging to the Liberty ships class, built in USA to transport convoys of equipment, goods and passengers during II World War. The “Dori Friends” movement contributed to turn this site into a living cultural element, recognized by the local community and an important value for tourism. This shipwreck is another good example of the efforts being done to protect the Azorean underwater cultural heritage.

Ana Catarina Garcia



▲ Liberty Ship, Edwin L. Drake (WWII). Photo: Nuno Sá.



▲ Liberty Ship, Edwin L. Drake (WWII). Photo: Nuno Sá.

HERITAGE COMMUNICATION

Portimão Museum: the old fish cannery

The fishing and cannery industries are part of the history of the riverine city of Portimão, located in Algarve (Portugal). To protect this heritage, the municipality bought the old São Francisco fish cannery, converted into a museum in 2008. Its main purpose is to promote the rehabilitation of the industrial heritage of the city, its connection to the river and the creation of a high standard cultural offer.

The visit to the museum allows to know better the naval industry of the region, the fishing and the fishing gears, the work at the factory and the life of its workers. Photos, objects, machines and panels with texts enrich the exhibition and make it extremely appealing. These are the last vestiges of a world that is disappearing, but should not be forgotten. More information at: www.museudeportimao.pt/pt/default.aspx

NEWS AND EVENTS

PUBLICATION ON COASTAL POPULATIONS IN PORTUGAL

Springer's Handbook of Climate Change Communication has just been published. One of its chapter discusses the importance of traditional ecological knowledge of coastal populations to the definition of strategies for climate change adaptation. It is entitled “Traditional Ecological Knowledge as a contribution to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: the case of the Portuguese Coastal Populations”. This has the authorship of Joana Gaspar de Freitas, Maria Rosário Bastos and João Alveirinho Dias. More information: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-70479-1_16

CONFERENCE ON HISTORICAL AND UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

It took place in New Orleans, USA, between January 3-7, the Society for Historical Archaeology 2018 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology. Dedicated to “Landscapes, Entrepôts, and Global Currents”, the organization used the history of New Orleans to promote a discussion on perceiving and interpreting past and modern landscapes in a historical perspective and how global trends affect the examination of the past. The researcher Ana Catarina Garcia, from CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, presented a communication about “The Ribeira Velha of Lisbon and the requalification of Lisbon Water Front. Archaeological excavations in a nautical context”. More information at: www.conftool.com/sha2018/sessions.php

CHASING WHALES... IN CHILE

Between January 9-10 it took place at the University Academia de Humanismo Cristiano, in Santiago (Chile), the *Workshop Recorriendo los océanos: persiguiendo ballenas del Atlántico* (pasando por el Cabo de Hornos) al Pacífico.... [Traveling across the oceans: chasing whales from the Atlantic to the Pacific passing through Cape Horn]. Researchers from Chile, France, Brazil and Portugal were present. Nina Vieira, from CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, presented the communication: “A baleia, útil monstro do mar: uma história de baleação no Atlântico Moderno” [The whale, useful monster of the sea: an history of whaling in the Modern Atlantic].